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TO: State AF/C Kevin Aiston
Fax #: 202-736-4872
FROM: U.S. Embassy Kigali
SUBJECT: Draft Cable - Meeting With Gendarme CoS

Rw
P 600

Drafted: Pol-Mil: AMarley
Cleared: Charge: JLeader

SUBJECT: Meeting With Rwandan Gendarmerie Chief of Staff

1. AF Pol-Miloff, accompanied by TDY RSO John Bcaudry, paid an introductory courtesy call on the Chief of Staff of the new Rwandan Gendarmerie, COL Nyamwasa KAYUMBA, on 18 August. Rather than working in the Headquarters building of the old National Gendarmerie, COL Kayumba is operating from a residence on the slope below the King Faisal Hospital. The Gendarme Chief of Training, Major Sekamana, and the Chief of Operations, Captain Hodari, also participated in the meeting.

2. According to Kayumba, the RPA's Gendarmerie numbers approximately 700. 300 of the Gendarmes were trained by ex-Burundi Gendarme officers at the RPF training camp in northern Rwanda beginning in late 1993; the RPF had planned to integrate them into the Gendarmes as part of the new national military mandated by the Arusha peace accord. These 300 are now reportedly deployed throughout the Kigali area in an effort to restore police services. 100 Gendarme recruits are currently being trained by UN Civilian Police. An additional 300 Gendarme recruits are reportedly being completed training, the Gendarmerie will deploy into other cities throughout Rwanda.

3. Pol-Miloff said that he understood that the Rwandan Vice President had made a radio statement to the effect that the RPA was operating "screening camps" for personnel returning to Rwanda, and wondered what they were. COL Kayumba said that there were currently four such camps in which individuals were held while charges against them for participation in the massacres were investigated. The camps are located in Butare, where 130 personnel are being held; Gitarama, which is holding 120; Bugasera, where some 600 are being held; and Kigali, with an unspecified number of prisoners. Current plans call for the prisoners from Butare, Gitarama and Bugasera to be transferred to Kigali by 20 August. Once the prisoners are in Kigali, the prisoners can be visited by international observers. The Gendarmes will hold the prisoners in the Kigali prison until the Government of Rwanda Justice Ministry names a Prosecutor. The Gendarmes will then turn the prisoners over to the civilian Prosecutor for trial.

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4. Marley asked Kayumba whether the Gendarmerie could be of assistance in several cases in which husbands of Embassy foreign national employees have disappeared after their return to Kigali. COL Kayumba commented that there are three possible explanations for such disappearances: the individuals may have been arrested, in which case they should be in one of the "screening camps"; the individuals may have been the victims of personal vengeance (the Chief of Staff then commented that a few such cases have even been committed by RPA personnel), in which case nothing may ever be known; or the individuals, if they had committed crimes, may have fled Kigali when they realized that their neighbors were identifying them as criminals. COL Kayumba promised to look into the cases once he received the names of the men. If they had, in fact, been arrested, he would so inform the Embassy and permit a visit to the men at the prison.

5. Biographic Note. Colonel Kayumba is an infantryman by background. He served as an infantry officer (captain) in the Ugandan Army (NRA), and commanded an RPA battalion during the war in Rwanda. He was also one of the key military participants during the Arusha peace negotiations. He has wife and children living with him in Kigali.

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